



**Board Chair:**  
William P. Frick  
**Executive Director:**  
Cheryl C. Caldwell  
**Contact Information:**  
101 N. Congress St. , Ste 1  
PO Box 215  
Winnsboro, SC 29180  
**Phone:** 803-635-1590  
**Fax:** 803-635-6873  
**E-mail:**  
fcfirststeps@truvista.net

# Fairfield County First Steps Partnership *Fiscal Year 2007 Annual Report*

## Summary

**Numbers Served:**

560 children; adults/families; 5 child care facilities, with 251 children at those facilities; 0 child care centers achieved a higher quality status; 0 higher adult education levels achieved; 79 health assessments and screenings; 297 home visits; 2 staff trained; 0 4K slots and 3,473 books distributed.

**Total Budget:**

\$283,558 (includes all funding sources)

## Fairfield County School Readiness Profile

Population Characteristics	Figure
Population of Young Children (Ages 0-5)	1,880/8%
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch (5K)*	79%
Average Per Capita Personal Income	22,524
Children in Poverty (Ages 0-5)***	28%
Children Who Are Over Age in Third Grade**	19%
Children in Third Grade Performing Below Basic on PACT Reading **	24%
Children in Third Grade Performing Below Basic on PACT Math**	29%
Low Birth Weight Infants	11%
Births to Mothers With Less Than High School Education	27%
Less Than Adequate Prenatal Care	44%

*Note: Data is for 2003 except where noted (\*2005, \*\*2004, \*\*\*1999).*

**Profile Comments:** *According to the 2005 Fairfield County Kids Count Report, there are 1,880 children, ages five and under, in Fairfield County. 27% of babies born in Fairfield County were born to mothers with less than a high school education. A serious problem exists in terms of student readiness and school success in the early grades. 27.7% assessed not consistently ready for the first grade and 19% were over age in grade 3. 44% of the mothers received less than adequate prenatal care and 11% were low birth weight babies. The average per capita personal income is \$22,524, and 28% of the children ages 0-5 live in poverty. By the age of five, 79% of the children were eligible for free/reduced lunch in five-year-old kindergarten. In 2000, 68% of mothers with children under six were in the labor force. 67.5% of children under six are in families where the single parent of both parents work. Caring for children is a problem for parents unable to obtain quality, affordable childcare while they are at work. Overall, there are 355 spaces in state-regulated childcare facilities in the county. The average weekly charge for center-based childcare is \$77. Only 50% of all preschool staff in childcare centers possesses a high school diploma or higher and 100% of all*

*assistants had only a high school diploma or less. Home-based childcare facilities were less educated.*

## SCHOOL READINESS STRATEGIES

### Early Education

**Statewide Goal:** South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness will leverage state, local and private resources to increase the quality of, and number of children participating in, developmentally appropriate pre-kindergarten programs in both the public and private sectors. Particular emphasis will be placed on *fidelity* to research-based instructional models and *targeting* of students at-risk of early school failure.

#### ***FY 2007 Results***

**Partnership Goal:** Increase the number of children attending high quality early childhood education programs by partnering with Gleamns to offer 20 slots in the Head Start program in a rural area.

- *All participating students were targeted for participation on the basis of compounded school readiness factors including Dial -3 screening scores in the bottom 25%, free or reduced lunch status and income guidelines.*
- *The classroom teachers and assistants have been trained in the High Scope Curriculum.*
- *The FCFS funded classroom met the South Carolina 4K requirement for curriculum, pupil-teacher ratios, materials and class size.*
- *100% of planned home visits were completed.*
- *100% of the Head Start participants reside in a rural area of the county that was underserved prior to FCFS involvement.*

### Family Strengthening

**Statewide Goal:** South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness will work collaboratively with its agency partners, the faith community and private sector to support parents and families in their own efforts to maximize the school readiness, well-being and long-term academic success of the state's young children.

#### ***FY 2007 Results***

**Partnership Goal:** Increase the capacity of parents to be their child's best and most important teacher by providing intense home visitation services. Use the Imagination Library program as a tool in educating the community about the importance of early literacy, and introducing participating families to all other FCFS programs.

- *Sixteen families with twenty-one children received a minimum of two monthly Parents As Teachers visits. Using the PAT model to differentiate intensity according to need, eleven families received more than the minimum of two visits per month at varying times.*
- *A total of 256 visits were made to these families.*
- *The average time for visits is one and one-half hours.*
- *Thirty-one Health assessments were performed on these children.*
- *Three medical referrals were made to necessary agencies.*
- *26% of the families attended the group meetings.*
- *367 books given to families through the PAT program*
- *2999 books were distributed through the Imagination Library Program, in a partnership with the Rotary Club of Winnsboro.*
- *Our PAT Educator received four trainings to include The PAT Issues in Working with Teen Parents, Infant/Toddlers, Twos –They Learn From Music Too!, Preventing Death by Lecture, and Including Dad.*
- *Parents reported a 4.5 satisfaction level out of 5 (1[poor] to 5[excellent]).*

## **Child Care**

**Statewide Goal** South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness recognizes quality child care as a research-based determinant of school readiness. As such, First Steps will collaborate with parents, the child-care community and its agency and community partners to maximize child care quality throughout the state. Particular emphasis will be placed on assisting parents in their efforts to identify those settings most likely to maximize developmental outcomes, and assisting providers in their own efforts to maximize the learning environments they provide for young children.

### ***FY 2007 Results***

**Partnership Goal:** Improve the quality of childcare in Fairfield County by offering training, technical assistance, and materials to all childcare providers in the county. Perform Environmental Rating Assessments in participating classrooms in order to find strengths and weaknesses within individual classrooms. Provide childcare tuition assistance to qualified families.

- *Quality Enhancement grants were provided to five participating classrooms in four facilities serving 251 children.*
  - *Through intensive technical assistance, by our Certified Technical Assistant, the following program outcomes were achieved:*
    - *An average of 10 staff members participated in eight on-going DSS certified trainings regarding Health and Safety, Curriculum, and Growth and Development.*
    - *The combined scores for these classrooms increased from 3.85 to 4.36.*
    - *The five participating classrooms received an average of 33 hours per class in support and assistance in their individual classrooms.*
    - *107 books were distributed to these classrooms.*
    - *Twelve new infant slots were added in one facility.*
    - *The average Environmental Rating Scales score rose from 3.26 to 4.53, showing an improvement of 38.9%.*
    - *Using the Environmental Rating Scale as a guideline, quality learning materials were purchased for the participating classrooms.*
    - *Strong relationships were built between the TA and providers as well as between the providers and children.*
- *19 children were awarded childcare scholarships*
  - *100% of the scholarships were used in facilities that were also participants in the Quality Enhancement program with FCFS.*
  - *95% of the participants attended the minimum of three Parent Workshops presented by FCFS.*

## **Healthy Start**

**Statewide Goal:** South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness recognizes the importance of a healthy start in maximizing both school readiness and the long-term wellbeing of the state's children. The initiative will partner with families, the medical community and other stakeholders to leverage resources for – and increase awareness of – the healthcare, nutrition and early developmental needs of the state's young children.

### ***FY 2007 Results***

**Partnership Goal:** Partner with the Fairfield County Health Department and the John A. Martin Primary Healthcare Center to provide prenatal and infant/child car seat safety education.

- *Increased twenty-one parent's knowledge of health and safety issues for preschool children. Seven of these completed the required number of classes in order to receive a free car seat.*
- *Participants reported they were completely satisfied with the topics covered in the class.*
- *100% of the participants reported a 10, on a scale of 1 to 10, that they would recommend this class to friends and family.*
- *100% reported that the instructor covered all areas of interest for these mothers.*

## **School Transition**

**Statewide Goal:** South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness recognizes school entry as a pivotal transition point in each child's educational career. In an effort to ensure strong collaborative relationships between the state's families and schools, the initiative will develop strategies to maximize parents' understandings of state and local expectations and ensure a smooth and beneficial school transition for each child.

**Partnership Goal:** Ensure an educationally beneficial school transition by serving 20 at-risk children in the Countdown to Kindergarten program.

### ***FY 2007 Results***

- *Fifteen of the twenty identified children completed the Countdown program during summer 2006.*
  - *100 % of these fifteen children received five or more home visits.*
- *33% of the children were placed in their Countdown home visitor's kindergarten class (due to the location of the four different primary schools).*
- *80% percent of the children qualified for free lunch.*
- *100% of the children lived with a single parent.*
- *Countdown to Kindergarten resulted in improvements in parent-child interactions, including:*
  - *24% increase in parents playing toys, games or sports with participant child 5 or more times per week from Week One Survey to Week Seven Survey.*
  - *10% increase in parents singing songs or dancing with the participant child 5 or more times per week from Week One Survey to Week Seven Survey.*
  - *17% increase in parents working with letters, words or numbers with the participant child 5 or more times per week.*
  - *The Week One survey showed that 36% of the families did not keep a regular morning or bedtime schedule for the child. This decreased to 29% by week seven.*
  - *4% increase in parent praising participant child 5 or more times per week for accomplishments or doing things that were expected of the child.*

- *The Week One Survey showed that 21% of the parents never drew, painted or did other arts with their child. This decreased to 7% on the Week Seven Survey.*

**SCHOOL READINESS STRATEGIES FOR 2007-2008**

*The Fairfield County First Steps partnership board is committed to the in-house Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) for full-time childcare. This tuition assistance is based on income guidelines of parents falling below 150% poverty. The recipients must agree to send their child to one of the programs participating in our Quality Enhancement participating programs. Additionally, the parents agree to attend a minimum of three Parent Workshops, hosted by FCFS. The workshops will be based on Active Parenting Now, Ages 1 to 4, for this year. The Technical Assistant who is working with the local childcare facilities for Quality Enhancement will use Environmental Rating Scales assessments in determining needs of each individual facility. Plans of Action are developed based on these assessments as well. DSS certified trainings for our childcare providers are based on need. Our highly successful Parents As Teachers program continues. The number of visits per month is determined according to each family’s individual need, with each family having a minimum of two visits per month. Visits are an average of 1 ½ hours per visit. In our continued partnership with Rotary of Winnsboro we will continue the registration of any Fairfield County child age 0 – 5 into the Imagination Library program. This program is used as an awareness tool for our other strategies in addition to building literacy within the registered families. We are continuing our partnership with GLEAMNS to provide Head Start in a rural area of the county. In our continued partnership with John A. Martin Primary Healthcare and Fairfield County DHEC we continue to offer free infant car seats for successful completion of prenatal classes. In an effort to reach more mothers, these classes are being offered at different times, including weekends. Countdown to Kindergarten dollars are seen as a relatively small investment in transitioning the children who need an extra boost to kindergarten. The use of our childcare resource room continues to increase.*

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

<b>D O L L A R S (budget only)</b>							
<b>State Appropriation</b>	<b>State-Private</b>	<b>In-kind</b>	<b>Local-Private</b>	<b>Lottery Appropriation</b>	<b>Federal</b>	<b>EIA Appropriation</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
\$159,518	\$488	\$61,298	\$20,712	\$0	\$0	\$41,542	<b>\$283,558</b>

*NOTE: The above State and EIA appropriation amounts leveraged all state-private, in-kind, local-private, lottery and federal dollars.*

<b>READINESS STRATEGIES</b>	<b>EXPENSES</b>
Parent As Teachers	\$37,246.00
Imagination Library	\$6,737.00
GLEAMNS Head Start	\$61,747.00
Countdown to Kindergarten	\$3,756.00
Quality Enhancement	\$19,103.00
Childcare Training and Enhancement	\$750.00
Scholarship Initiatives	\$40,332.00
Non-Home Based Services (car seats)	\$1,200.00
County Programmatic	\$54,505.00
County Administrative	\$26,512.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$251,888.00</b>

**NOTABLE DONORS**

<b>DONOR'S NAME</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Winnsboro Rotary Club	\$754.00
Sophie P. Coleman	\$27.00
Terry Vickers	\$27.00
United Way of the Midlands	\$500.00
Wal Mart of Winnsboro	\$1000.00
William Browder	\$81.00
Philip Hinely	\$87.00
Robert Drake	\$54.00
Robert Hane	\$100.00
Mrs. Robert Turner	\$27.00
Sabine Lang	\$85.25
James Baughman	\$54.00
Keith Brewington	\$54.00
James Mullen, Jr.	\$30.00
Lang Mekra	\$160.50
Larry Dozier	\$54.00
Mary Lynn Kinley	\$27.00
Meredith Chappell	\$27.00
Davis Anderson	\$27.00
Dwayne Perry	\$27.00
Frances L. Oneal	\$540.00
George H. Tisdale, Jr.	\$27.00
Gwen Harden	\$27.00
Jacqueline M. Miller	\$54.00
Annie E. McDaniel	\$60.00
Antonio M. Perez	\$108.00
Billy David Bittinger	\$30.00
Book Club	\$27.00
Bundy Bynum	\$27.00
Cheryl Caldwell	\$54.00
Creighton B. Coleman	\$100.00
Tony Caulder	\$27.00
EC Harrelson	\$27.00
Snooks Chappell	\$27.00
Provident Comm. Bank	\$50.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$4,387.75</b>

**Local Match Percentage for 2007: 51.7% (at least 15% required)**

## BOARD INFORMATION

During FY 07, the Fairfield County partnership board members volunteered 54.5 hours.

Value of Volunteer Time<sup>1</sup>: \$18.77 X 54.5 = \$1022.96

### FAIRFIELD COUNTY FIRST STEPS BOARD MEMBERSHIP

William P. Frick, Chair, Legislative Appointee  
Beverlyann Austin, Healthcare Provider  
Raye O. Boyd, School District representative  
Pinkey D. Dukes, Childcare and Early Development  
Sarah Forseth, Pre-kindergarten through Primary  
Bobb Hane, Legislative Appointee  
Gwen Harden, Business  
Michael Hemlepp, Business  
Jena B. Johnson, Legislative Appointee  
Dee B. Mattox, Healthcare Provider  
Karen D. Mattox, Childcare and Early Development  
Sarah McMaster, Library representative  
LaCheryl Mobley, Head Start representative  
Mac R. Russell, parent of a preschool child  
William P. Sherrod, DSS representative  
Becky Swearingen, Transportation  
Mary Urias, Nonprofit Organization  
Rev. Gloria Williams, Faith Community

---

## SUCCESS STORIES

### Success Story

This year our “Parents as Teachers” Program has been more successful than ever before. We credit this to more intense visits, more frequent visits, but mainly to our Parent Educator. She has organized all activities so that it takes less time to prepare for a visit. Her summary of each visit is very detailed and we can all tell the benefits of all activities and also the activities that need to be changed. We have had only two families leave the program from lack of interest, the others were either aged out or moved. 367 books were distributed, each three year old received a set of blocks, and each fifteen month old received a shape sorter.

The parents have become more responsible about contacting us if they cannot meet during their scheduled time. Our Parent Educator has a wonderful rapport with the families we serve. She makes sure that each family is enrolled in all First Steps and community programs that they are eligible for.

---

<sup>1</sup> [http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer\\_time.html](http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer_time.html)